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The Chat Room

College of Education and Professional Studies Newsletter

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CEPS Alumni Awards Banquet

The CEPS Alumni Awards are presented to EIU Alumni whose degree is in a program within the College of Education and Professional Studies. The college celebrated alumni achievements at a banquet held in honor of the award recipients on Wednesday, March 30, 2011.

Drew Campbell, from Sullivan, Illinois, received the 2011 CEPS Rising Star Award. The recipients of this award are alumni within 3-5 years of

graduation from Eastern Illinois University who have excelled in their field or career for which the CEPS degree prepared them.

Mark Koepsell, from Fort Collins, Colorado, Donna Martin, from St. Louis, Missouri, William Smith, from Salt Lake City, Utah, and Michael Sterba, from Rock Falls, Illinois, received the 2011 CEPS Leadership and Service Award. The recipients of this award have had a significant impact in their chosen field, community, or society.

The 2011 CEPS Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Larry Closson, from Springfield, Illinois, and Morrie Reece, from St. Louis, Missouri. The recipients of this award have attained distinguished professional success and prominence, a living role model in the discipline represented by the College of Education and Professional Studies.



The 2011 CEPS Alumni Award recipients were honored in the Grand Ballroom on Wednesday, March 30, 2011. Front row: William Smith, Mark Koepsell, Larry Closson, Donna Martin
Back row: Drew Campbell, Morrie Reese, Michael Sterba

Living History Public Performances

In celebration of Women's History Month, education majors participated in the Living History program, along with other Eastern students, sponsored by the Women's Studies Program. Students chose a historical figure to portray and wrote a 10-minute monologue to perform throughout March. Mildred Pearson, an assistant professor of early childhood, elementary and middle level education, co-directs and co-chairs the program with Melanie Mills, a professor in communications studies.

Students have performed in the Living History program for 20 years. Abby Petrosky, a junior elementary education major, played the role of actress Lucille Ball. Ashley Byrd, a senior elementary education major with a concentration in social sciences, performed Hattie McDaniel, the first African American woman to win an Oscar.

This year 11 women participated, more than in the past two years. "The young ladies performed their characters with passion and compassion for which they were and I think they wanted to articulate first person with their character in the moment," Pearson said.



Abby Petrosky, a junior elementary education major, plays the role of Lucille Ball in the Living History Public Performance Sunday afternoon in the auditorium in Coleman Hall. (Audrey Sawyer | The Daily Eastern News)

Education Major Crowned 40th Miss Black EIU

Timery Jackson, a junior elementary education major, won the 40th Miss Black EIU scholarship pageant titled "40 Silhouettes of Beauty" held in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on February 26, 2011. Along with winning the title, Jackson also won in the "African" garment category wearing her garment titled "The Beautiful Butterfly."

Seven contestants competed in four categories: Royal Knowledge (creative expression), A Princess's Heritage (African garments), Expressions of a Princess (talent category), and Elegance of a Princess (evening gowns and

questions), for the title of Miss Black EIU 2011.

“This pageant has been a wonderful experience for me personally and professionally,” Jackson said.

She confessed to being a shy and timid person, yet the pageant turned her into a “social butterfly” and gave her the opportunity to show her creativity. “I think i shocked quite a few people with everything i did in each category.”

Jackson said the pageant enriched her professionally, by honing her management skills and enhancing her ability to work with others.

“This pageant has also encouraged me to speak out and be the voice of other African American women because it really takes a lot of courage to get up on stage and perform in front of your peers, she said. “I am proud to be Miss Black EIU 2011.”



Timery Jackson, a junior elementary education major, reigns as the 40th Miss Black EIU.

STG online application

The Department of Student Teaching advanced its technology this year by installing a STG online application process. Prior to the install, the department would hold informational meetings on campus and students would have to fill out heavy loads of paperwork that would travel back and forth between Eastern, placement coordinators, and schools.

Dr. Jim Kestner, department chair of student teaching, said Eastern places 350-400 students a semester. Launched in October 2010, the new process is entirely Web-based. The new application process “addresses the issue of meeting conflicts with a virtual meeting online,” “saves time and money,” while being a “green” alternative.

Coordinators that place students in schools for their student teaching requirement will now have weeks to take the time to get to know their students and placing them whereas this was not the case before, Kestner said. “Students have a year to get this done on their own schedule,” he said. “It also gets more concrete information in front of the students.”

CEPS 14th Annual Research Fair

Students and faculty members of the College of Education and Professional Studies came together on February 21, 2011, for the 14th Annual Research Fair held in the Buzzard Atrium. The Counseling and Student Development department presented 11 research projects, Kinesiology and Sports Studies presented two, and Secondary and Elementary Education departments each presented one project.

Recipients of CEPS Development Grants included: Christina Edmonds-Behrend, Amy Rosenstein, and Frank Mullins; Ovande Furtado, Jere D. Gallagher, and Scott Ronspies; Melissa Jones; Kelly Kawa and Charles Eberly; Catherine Polydore and Stephen E. Lucas; Jessica Rinkel and Charles Eberly; Brent Walker; Catherine Welsh, Geena Anselmo, and Sham'ah Md-Yunus; Kevin Wood, Misty Rhoads, and Richard Cavanaugh.



Miss Fitness, A Kinesiology Student

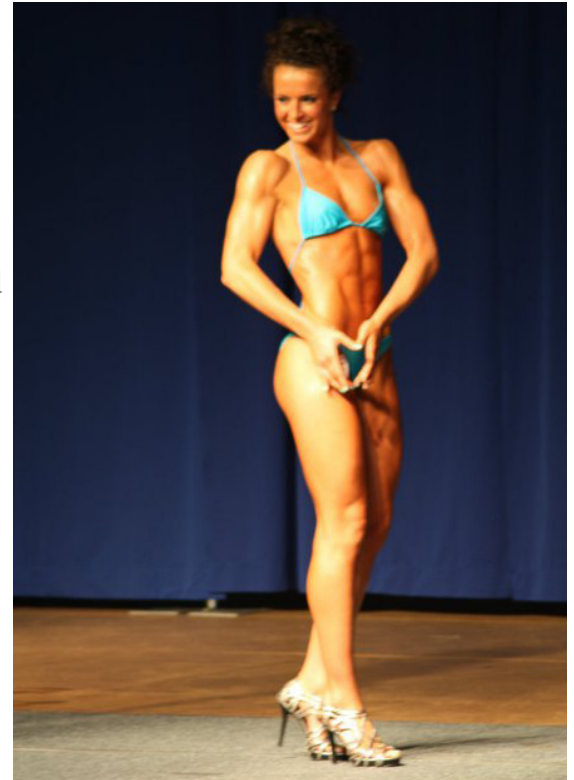
Kelsey Orr, a kinesiology and sports studies major, won the Miss Fitness competition held in McAfee Gym on March 5, 2011. The greatest benefit of winning, Orr said, was the recognition of her hard work. "It's so rewarding to hear from girls saying I've "inspired them to start working out again" and on top of that, to have them ask for my advice or help is such an honor."

The annual competition is open to female students to display physical ability and fitness. Contestants competed for three different titles.

"Competing in Miss Fitness has proved to be one of the most valuable experiences I have ever been a part of. I wanted to do the competition because my future profession will involve training athletes that compete at an amateur or professional level for competitions such as these. I wanted to know exactly what they went through with the dieting and training because it is far too easy to talk the talk. To walk the walk allows you to have a much greater understanding and appreciation for what these athletes go through," said Orr.

"On top of that knowledge and firsthand experience I learned a lot about my body and the changes it is capable of making. As an Exercise Science major in the College of Education and Professional Studies I've spent a number of hours in a classroom learning how the body adapts to different training and dieting regimens. To see it actually happen was incredible," she said.

Orr said her Kinesiology courses made the experience easier and less expensive. "As a volleyball and track athlete at Eastern I had always trained for power. The knowledge I had gained from my courses helped me to know how to train my body in a hypertrophy program instead. (That just means that it is designed to make your muscles bigger and more defined rather than training to be faster or stronger) My dieting was simplified and safe because it was based off of my Nutrition classes so I was lucky to avoid a lot of the misinformation that can be found on the internet or various other sources. My experience was far less expensive because I didn't have to hire a personal trainer for the competition. My Kinesiology classes had prepared me perfectly for such an experience and that is something I truly appreciate as a poor college kid."



Kelsey Orr, a kinesiology and sports studies major, poses in the EIU Miss Fitness competition.

Literacy with Advisory Groups

Practical experience always trumps a lecture when it comes to being an Education major. Dr. Jay Bickford started a program in August 2010 that integrates Literacy with Advisory groups. "EIU students want and need practical experience with actual adolescents by tutoring in their area of endorsement, with advisory, and in ways to form social connections with kids," said Dr. Bickford. "In doing so, EIU students apply knowledge gained from MLE:4280 (Content Area Reading) and MLE:4760 (Adolescents social and emotional development) with real adolescents in a real school contexts."

Education majors engage in small group discussions/activities with CMS 7th graders in an advisory setting. In doing so, EIU students develop a, advisory curriculum based on emergent themes such as citizenship, friendship, and accountability.

Previous students had only talked about such issues and methods in classes. Mutual interests between Dr. Bickford and two Charleston Middle School seventh-grade teachers, Mrs. St. Gemme and Mrs. Crome generated the program idea at a summer institute with Dr. Cindy Rich, EIU's Teaching with Primary Sources. "Coffee was the catalyst, but mutual interests generated this partnership," Dr. Bickford said.

CEPS Undergraduate Students Present at Ithaca College

Eastern students presented 18 abstracts (six times more than any other Illinois university, ranking the university 44th out of 356 institutions across the nation) at the prestigious National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) held March 31-April 2 at Ithaca.

Three abstracts from the College of Education and Professional studies were accepted: "An Examination of Students' Perspectives on What Works in Learning Mathematics"; students Catherine Welsh and Geena Anselmo; faculty mentor Sham'ah Md-Yunus; early childhood, elementary, and middle level education; "Teaching Mathematics in Early Childhood Classrooms: Exploring Teachers' Beliefs about What Works Best"; students Jorjoh Joof and Mahogany Williams; faculty mentor Md-Yunus; early childhood, elementary, and middle level education; "Illinois Standardized Achievement Test's Influence and Impact Upon the Elementary Classroom Environment: Perspectives and Attitudes of 3rd-5th Grade Teachers and Students"; students Candice M. Ivie and Jordan E. Palmgren; faculty mentor Daniel J. Carter; early childhood, elementary, and middle level education.